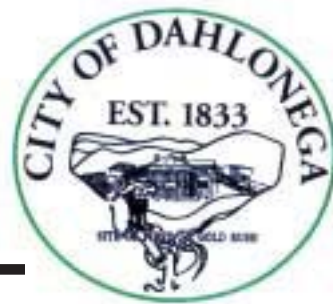


City Limits

News from the Government Offices of Dahlonega, Georgia



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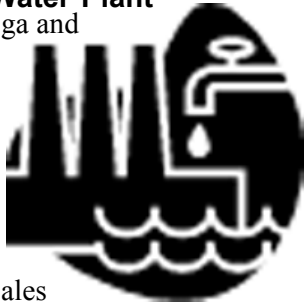
Spish, SPLOST...Sales Tax Needed for Water Plant

When Dahlonega and Lumpkin

County voters go to the polls in November, they'll have a chance to approve a Special Purpose

Local Option Sales

Tax, or SPLOST, extending for six more years the life of a one-percent sales tax already being collected at local cash registers. If Lumpkin County's SPLOST is approved, the city will receive a portion of the money collected. The city's portion has been earmarked to help pay for Dahlonega's soon-to-be-constructed new water treatment plant, to be located at the Yahoola Creek Reservoir. The new plant is needed because the existing one has run out of capacity and is obsolete. City manager Bill Lewis says the city is counting on its share of the SPLOST in order to complete the plant and provide water to Dahlonega and the Lumpkin County Water & Sewerage Authority. In the long run, he says, the SPLOST revenue will help keep the cost of the plant down and help control water rates for everyone. Besides that, with the current plant at capacity, the city's got to get the plant built—and soon—to prevent a moratorium on new construction that could limit positive development.



A Better Hometown...Still!

Dahlonega once again has earned the designation of being a Better Hometown, a unit of the National Main Street program. This is the seventh consecutive year the city has met the standards necessary to enjoy the status and benefits of the program. The Georgia Better Hometown-Main Street Program, administered by the state's Department of Community Affairs, is a downtown revitalization process based on a tried-and-true philosophy

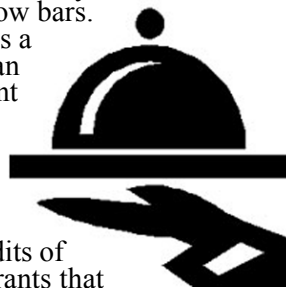
Heard on the Street

The city won't get all the mileage expected from its street resurfacing program this year, but the local roads still will get more attention and funding from the state than usual. The city had planned \$200,000 worth of road improvements in 2006, budgeting \$100,000 for resurfacing, to be matched by \$100,000 from the Georgia Department of Transportation through its Local Assistance Road Program. But prices for petroleum-based asphalt skyrocketed, and bids for the work came in \$318,000, far exceeding the budgeted cost. Mayor Gary McCullough, council members and the city manager were able to negotiate a valuable compromise through a visit to DOT Commissioner Harold



Would You Like Dinner with That?

Even though Dahlonega does allow sales of beer, wine and liquor on the premises of appropriately licensed restaurants, the city does not allow bars. To qualify as a restaurant, an establishment must be able to attribute at least half of its sales to food. Audits of local restaurants that serve alcohol are in progress now to ensure that alcoholic beverage license holders are complying with this and other local ordinances.



Linnenkohl, who agreed to increase the state's match to \$130,000. A total of three miles of city roads will be resurfaced. That's half of what was initially planned, says city manager Bill Lewis, but still several times more than usual for LARP. The city will take \$25,000 of its unexpected additional \$30,000 in costs out of next year's budget.

Resurfacing work will be done on portions of these roads: Azalea Trail, Boyd Circle, Choice Street, Choke Cherry Lane, College Lane, Goldenrod Lane, Happy Hollow Road, Martin Street, Meaders Street South, Ridgeview Court, Riley Road (South Grove to Pine), Trevor Trail, Walker Drive, Waters Street and Wimpy Mill Road. Planned resurfacing on these streets will have to wait: Church, Alma, Maple, North Meaders and Pine.

Drink Up...the Water's Great

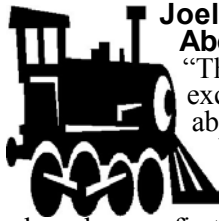
The City of Dahlonega is proud of many things—including its drinking water. The water department is pleased to announce the city's water continues to meet or exceed all state and federal safety and quality standards. Water Quality Reports, which detail the results of stringent monitoring and testing conducted throughout 2005, are available now. Interested citizens may pick up copies at City Hall, 465 Riley Road. For more information call 706-864-6133. In the meantime, drink up!



and management system originated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The program is community based, relying on the commitment of a full range of stakeholders, or people who share a common interest in preserving the vitality of the commercial district, like business and property owners, bankers, citizens, public officials, the chamber of commerce and other local economic development organizations. Together, following

step-by-step principles, these stakeholders work to physically preserve and improve the downtown area's buildings and public spaces, to aggressively market and promote the downtown area and focus on economic development. Communities that demonstrate their commitment to the process by earning and maintaining Better Hometown/Main Street status receive valuable state support in the form of consultation, design direction and technical assistance.

City of Dahlonega . . . continued from reverse side



Joel Aboard!

"The city is excited about bringing Joel Cordle on board as our first full-time Better Hometown Program manager and Dahlonega Downtown Development Authority director," says city manager Bill Lewis. "With Joel's experience and professionalism, we're moving forward, full-speed ahead, to support economic development and quality of life in the city." Joel, who already was a downtown Dahlonega resident, comes to Dahlonega city government from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, where he was regional downtown representative administering Main Street and Better Hometown program services across North Georgia for the past six years.

"Other cities envy what downtown Dahlonega has. We're North Georgia's greatest small town, with wonderful history, architectural and natural beauty, diverse and thriving businesses, and a leadership team that all combine to make our downtown a model for success," says Joel, giving no small amount of credit to his "part-time" predecessor, Larry Sorohan, whose "energy and expertise have been essential to the great investment climate in Dahlonega." Joel already has a significant to-do list of projects and issues either in progress or on the horizon. And he'll be visiting with downtown business owners to get input on trends and issues that will help guide short and long-range work plans for the city. He can be reached at Dahlonega City Hall, 706-864-6133.

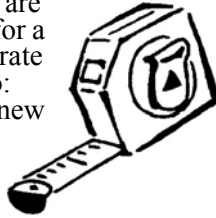


Unconventionally Good Convention?

The Georgia Municipal Association's annual conventions are always informative and beneficial, says Dahlonega Mayor Gary McCullough, but this year's was exceptionally excellent. The mayor and full city council, the city manager and city clerk Janet Jarrard all attended the event, held in Savannah in late June.

Timken Expansion Good for Dahlonega

Expansion plans in progress for Timken US Corporation's Dahlonega plant are positive for the city on many levels. One: It's good news when good things are happening for a great corporate citizen. Two: Around 50 new jobs will be created. Three: Industrial development fuels the local economy and grows the tax base. And four: Dahlonega becomes eligible for certain grant funds to make local improvements. Based on the Timken expansion, the city has applied for a state Employment Incentive Program grant, which could bring in as much as \$10,000 per new job created for a total of around \$500,000. If awarded, the grant funds will bring much-needed funding to Dahlonega's sewerage system improvement plans, helping to finance two lift stations and a force main. The improvements would serve the plant and other city customers.



Watch That Water Use!

The Georgia EPD has declared the state is in a Level One Drought. (See *new statewide water restriction details story in this edition of County Line*.) In addition to following the state's restrictions, everyone—whether on public water or on a private well—is asked to conserve water.

For more than 100 water saving ideas and great information about protecting and preserving water resources, visit www.wateruseitwisely.com.



Fresh from the Farm

Did you know the finest quality vegetables, fruits, honeys, and culinary herbs are available right here at home? The Downtown Dahlonega Farmers Market in Hancock Park, just steps off the Public Square, is the very best source around for quality produce, locally grown and picked ripe and fresh from area gardens. You'll also find delicious jams, jellies, honey, dried flowers, and garden seeds, as well as decorative flowers and plants. Buying direct from the local market means you get great prices for excellent produce *and* you are supporting our local farmers. Sponsored by the city's Better Hometown Program, the Downtown Dahlonega Farmers Market is held every Tuesday and Saturday during the growing season, at the corner of North Park Street and Warwick Street. There is plenty of free parking. The local farmers begin setting up between 6 and 7 a.m. and stay open until 2 p.m. For details call Joel Cordle at 706-864-6133.



Problems Ashore at Reservoir

Even as city and county officials are making plans to enhance some of the shore area of the Yahoola Creek Reservoir with picnic tables, benches, groundcover and improved parking and boat docking areas, some problems are being observed, namely: littering and dumping. Please help keep Dahlonega—and our new lake and surrounding park areas—beautiful!



How May We Be of Service ?



Question? Comment? Problem? Call City Hall at (706) 864-6133. We'll put you in touch with the right person.

City Council

Gary McCullough, Mayor
Michael Clemons
Guy Laboa
Gerald Lord
Sam Norton
Terry Peters
Bill Scott

Bill Lewis, City Manager

Please join us at our meetings!

Learn about your government by attending public meetings like these. Find the complete schedule at www.cityofdahlonega.com.

City Council: 1st Monday of each month at 6pm—City Hall (changed to second Monday in September)

Planning/Zoning Commission: 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm—City Hall

Historic Preservation

Commission: 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm—City Hall

Dahlonega Downtown

Development Authority: 3rd Thursdays alternately at City Hall or Chamber of Commerce building (August at Chamber)

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